

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding an  $\alpha$  chain of human Interleukin (IL)-11 receptor wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:4 or its complementary form under high stringency hybridization conditions comprising 65°C for about 16 hours in a solution of 2X SSC, 2 mg/ml bovine serum albumin, 2 mg/ml ficoll, 2 mg/ml polyvinylpyrrolidone, 100  $\mu$ M ATP, 50  $\mu$ g/ml tRNA, 2 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 2 mg/ml salmon sperm DNA, 200  $\mu$ g/ml of sodium azide and 1% w/v SDS followed by washing for 30 mins at 65°C with 0.2 X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

2-4. (Previously cancelled)

5. (Previously amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.

6-7. (Previously cancelled)

8. (Previously amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 5 wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5.

9. (Previously amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

10. (Previously cancelled)

11. (Original) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8 or 9.

12. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes a mammalian IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain, said nucleic acid molecule further defined by the ability of an oligonucleotide selected from SEQ ID NOS:6 to 10 to hybridize thereto under ~~medium stringency conditions and wherein said oligonucleotide is~~

~~selected from SEQ ID NOS:6 to 10 wherein said medium stringency conditions comprise 0.25-0.5% w/v SDS at greater than or equal to 45°C for 2-3 hours~~ hybridization conditions comprising 65°C for about 16 hours in a solution of 2X SSC, 2 mg/ml bovine serum albumin, 2 mg/ml ficoll, 2 mg/ml polyvinylpyrrolidone, 100 µM ATP, 50 µg/ml tRNA, 2 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 2 mg/ml salmon sperm DNA, 200 µg/ml of sodium azide and 1% w/v SDS followed by washing for 30 mins at 65°C with 0.2 X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

13-15. (Currently cancelled)

16. (Previously cancelled)

17-21. (Currently cancelled)

22-23. (Previously cancelled)

24-25. (Currently cancelled)

26-29. (Previously cancelled)

30. (Currently cancelled)

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